

WEATHER.
Fair, colder tonight and tomorrow, with cold wave; lowest temperature tonight about 15 to 18 degrees; strong northwest winds. Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: Highest, 54, at 3 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 41, at 2 a.m. today.
Full report on page 15.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 15.

Evening Star.

"From Press to Home
Within the Hour"

Sworn Net Circulation, Month of December, 1915. Daily Average, 74,401; Sunday, 56,833.

No. 20,221.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1916—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

ONE CENT.

BIG GUNS HERALD A NEW OFFENSIVE ON WESTERN LINE

London and Paris Think Germans Plan to Launch Important Attack.

BERLIN SAYS ARTILLERY ACTIVITY IS "TERRIFIC"

British Detachments Which Attempt Advance Reported to Have Been Driven Back.

GERMAN TROOPS FROM EAST

Sweep Through Serbia Believed to Have Released Several Hundred Thousand Men for Service in the West.

BERLIN, February 7, via London, 3:05 p.m.—Artillery engagements of terrific intensity have been in progress in the sector between La Bassée canal and Arras in northern France and south of the River Somme, German army headquarters announced today.

British detachments attempted to advance in the region southwest of Neuville and south of La Bassée canal Saturday, but were driven back, according to the general headquarters staff.

French Artillery Active.

LONDON, February 7.—French artillery subjected the German trenches in the region of Maisons de Champagne to a destructive fire Saturday, according to an official statement issued in Paris by the French war department. The statement also recounts the bringing down in flames of a German aeroplane after an engagement with a French battleplane.

There appears to be a growing belief both in Paris and London that the Germans are preparing to launch some important military movements on the western front. For nearly a fortnight increasing German activity has been reported along this line.

Attack May Be Forced.

The Times says that the pressure of events may force the German staff to stake much to preserve confidence at home and to stiffen the troops by giving them an illusion of victory by a movement and the possible occupation of a few advance line trenches.

Time for German Effort.

The Daily Graphic says: "Every argument from the enemy standpoint favors a great western offensive. The German staff has released several hundred thousand men for service under German direction. For a month past near Loos, Givency and Arras, and at other points attacks have been made with the evident object of finding a weak spot. Furthermore, the whole theory of a successful war, according to the general staff, is the best form of defense is an attack. On the political side there is necessity to convince German and Austrian public opinion that something decisive is near."

TO EMPLOY 1,000 MEN.

Work Soon to Begin on Government's R. R. Branch in Alaska.

SEWARD, Alaska, February 7.—Lieut. Frederick Mears of the Alaska engineering commission announced today that the work on the branch of the government's railroad extending from Anchorage to the Matanuska coalfields. Contracts are being let for clearing the right of way, and supplies are being assembled at construction camps.

Mail carriers here from Iditarod say that when the mail was taken over the trail at Takotna the temperature was 71 degrees below zero. The cold was so intense the carriers had to turn back their horses and set out a second time with dog sleds.

British Seize More Neutral Ships.

LONDON, February 4 (delayed).—The Norwegian steamships Bogstad, Galveston to Gothenburg, with a cargo of cotton, and Drammensfjord, New York to Bergen, with a general cargo, have been taken into Kirkwall. The Norwegian steamship Skard has been released.

Finnish Emigrants Detained.

LONDON, February 7.—A party of 400 Finlanders en route to America has been detained at Copenhagen, according to the Copenhagen correspondent of the Post, at the request of the Russian authorities, despite protests of its members that they had been declared unfit for military service.

May Cut Parliamentary Salaries.

LONDON, February 7.—The Daily Express says there is reason to believe that the coming report of the public services retrenchment committee will recommend that the salaries of members of parliament be reduced from £100 to £50.

MIDVALE COMPANY BOYS THE CAMBRIA

Controlling Interest Obtained at a Cost Estimated to Be \$20,000,000.

TOTAL OF 450,000 SHARES ACQUIRED IN THE DEAL

Philadelphia Exchange Excited, Due to Failure of Steel Merger Previously Proposed.

PHILADELPHIA, February 7.—Control of the Cambria Steel Company, one of the largest of the independent steel concerns, has been purchased by the Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company of Philadelphia. Announcement to this effect was made today by W. H. Donner, president of the Cambria company.

It was stated that William E. Corey, chairman of the Midvale Company, and his associates had taken over the option on the majority of Cambria stock held by William H. Donner, who represents a syndicate of which Henry C. Frick is a member.

The total outstanding Cambria stock amounts to 450,000 shares, and it is believed that the deal involved in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000.

Merger Negotiations Abandoned.

The announcement follows closely upon the failure of the negotiations for a merger of the Cambria Steel Company with the Lackawanna Steel Company and the Youngstown Steel and Tube Company. The price at which Cambria stock was to have gone into this merger was reported to be \$30 a share.

The Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company was at the time of its organization, several years ago, second only to the United States Steel Corporation in point of size. The addition of the Cambria Steel Company gives it control of extensive works at Johnstown, Pa., and of ore properties in the Lake Superior district.

Excitement on 'Change.

There was a scene of excitement on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange when the opening gong rang today, due to the announcement of the failure of the proposed merger of the Cambria Steel, Lackawanna Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube companies.

The stock of the Cambria Company had advanced briskly Saturday from 74 1/2 to 75, closing at 77 1/2. Today's opening was 76 to 75; the stock quickly advanced to 79, then fell to 75 again, and by 11:15 o'clock had advanced again to 79 1/2.

In the hour and a quarter the transactions amounted to 109,272 shares, breaking all records for the stock and exceeding in activity any dealing in a single stock since the excitement in Reading shares in 1902.

Secretary of the exchange issued a statement to shareholders was issued by the three men who had been active in the proposed merger, E. F. Stotesbury, W. H. Donner and J. L. Replogle.

Text of the Statement.

The statement read: "While it is true, as reported, that the negotiations for the combination of Cambria Steel Company with other steel companies has been abandoned, it is desirable that the stockholders should be advised immediately that other negotiations looking to the sale of the stock have been practically consummated at \$31 per share in cash. It is expected that a formal announcement will be made within a few days. The par value of Cambria stock is \$30 a share."

Announced in New York.

NEW YORK, February 7.—The newly organized Midvale Steel Company has purchased control of the Cambria Steel Company, according to an authoritative announcement here today. The price is understood to be \$31 a share.

One Lost With Sinking Ship.

LONDON, February 7.—The British steamship Balgownie, 1,061 tons gross, has been sunk. The crew, with the exception of the second officer, was saved.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate: Military committee continued hearings on preparedness. California oil men resumed appeal for relief before public lands committee.

House: Naval and military committees continued hearings on national defense.

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

Senate: An amendment to the District appropriation bill providing \$40,000 to macadamize Massachusetts avenue northwest from Nebraska avenue to the District line was introduced by Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire.

The Senate adopted a joint resolution reappointing Alexander Graham Bell a member of the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

A committee of engineers submitted protests against the construction of the proposed central power plant on 14th street to Senator Martin, chairman of the appropriations committee.

House: Representative Burke of Wisconsin was appointed to a place on the District committee made vacant by the resignation of Representative Eagle of Texas.

Conferees on the urgency deficiency bill visited the site of the proposed central heating plant.

ASK PRESIDENT TO HALT POWER PLANT

Senator Newlands and Architects' Committee Call at White House.

SAY THE ENTIRE NATION OPPOSES PRESENT PLAN

Urge Chief Executive to Prevent Further Work Until Thorough Investigation Is Made.

President Wilson was today asked to intervene in the fight over the location of the government heating and power plant, and he said he would consider the request.

The President was visited by J. L. Mauran of St. Louis, president of the American Institute of Architects; J. L. Fenner of New York, secretary of the same organization, and Charles W. Leavitt of New York, of the Landscape Engineers organization of the country. They were presented by Senator Newlands of Nevada, whose amendment to the urgent deficiency bill would, if it becomes law, stop the construction of the building on the site selected by the Treasury Department.

The visiting architects told the President that the impression existed among architects and engineers throughout the country that the location of the heating and power plant on the site chosen would mar the beauty of that part of Washington and become an eyesore to the capital and nation. They urged that the President prevent further work until a thorough investigation has been made by the fine arts commission, aided by competent engineering experts.

Fear a Grave Blunder.

The visit of the architects was short and they did little more than point out to the President that there is fear that a grave blunder may be made and that this blunder ought not to be permitted until a complete investigation has been made by those competent to determine whether the site selected should be changed.

In some quarters among architects there is said to be an impression that a modification of the building, to do away with the high smokestacks, might obviate the troubles that are feared, but today's visitors did not present this suggestion to the President. They want time to have a determination reached by the fine arts commission as to whether the site ought to be changed.

It was presumed at the White House today that the President would refer the request for the visitors, the first on the subject yet made to him, to Secretary McAdoo, whose department arranged the plans for the building, selected the site and let the contract.

Says It Will Not Be Unlikely.

The proposed central heating, lighting and power plant will not add to the disfigurement of Washington. It will not add to the smoke nuisances. It will not place more unsightly smokestacks in the landscape. It will eliminate many of the objectionable features. This is the substance of a statement issued by Byron R. Newton, assistant secretary of the fine arts commission, in a letter to the President, in which he pointed out the beauties of the city, which the whole country is interested in preserving. The propaganda has been at work throughout the country since the first of the new heating, lighting and power plant is to be established on the Mall near the White House, detracting the aesthetic sense of Washington and marred the beauties of the city, which the whole country is interested in preserving.

"For some time an active propaganda has been at work throughout the country since the first of the new heating, lighting and power plant is to be established on the Mall near the White House, detracting the aesthetic sense of Washington and marred the beauties of the city, which the whole country is interested in preserving."

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Will Not Mar City's Beauty.

"It is time the truth was told. The central heating, lighting and power plant will not add to the disfigurement of Washington. It will not add to the smoke nuisances. It will not place more unsightly smokestacks in the landscape. It will eliminate many of the objectionable features."

"Congress is interested in maintaining the beauty of Washington. The Secretary of the Treasury is jealous of the beauty of the National Capital and zealous in his efforts and desires to maintain that beauty. These were the fundamental facts which inspired Congress, after years of careful investigation, to authorize and appropriate money for the construction of a central heating, lighting and power plant and to select the site upon which it should be built."

Will Eliminate Many Smokestacks.

"This power plant, for which a contract was awarded on December 24, 1915, will be situated at the foot of 13th street on the river front on government reservation set apart by the founders of the city of Washington for commercial purposes."

"It will be so remote from the Capitol, from the White House, from all government buildings and from Pennsylvania avenue that it cannot be seen from these points. It will be one mile and an eighth from the White House and will be situated on the city of Washington seventeen smokestacks now existing on federal buildings, and from their individual plumes."

Persistently Opposed by Company.

"Electricity and steam generated at this one central point will be conveyed to all other federal buildings, therefore, making it unnecessary to maintain in these individual buildings their plants and smokestacks."

"In all these years that this project has been studied by Congress and experts it has been persistently opposed by the local company which has been supplying electricity to the federal buildings and the city of Washington."

"The erection of the central heating, lighting and power plant by the government will mean a net saving to the government of more than one hundred thousand dollars a year in the cost of power."

(Continued on Tenth Page.)



LEAP YEAR.

PREPAREDNESS TRIP MAY BE CALLED OFF

President May Not Make Speaking Tour of the South.

Southern congressmen who called today at the White House to urge President Wilson to visit their districts should be made another speaking tour for national preparedness, gained the impression that the President might not make another trip. He has not yet made up his mind, it was said, and probably will leave the question open until he has canvassed thoroughly the congressional situation.

The callers said the President believed the country had already shown its approval of adequate national preparedness and that he might well remain in Washington to work with Congress leaders on the subject.

Invitation From Tennessee.

Senator Lea and Representative Byrnes of Tennessee told the President he ought to go to Nashville by all means. Senator-elect McKellar and Senator Shields advised that he stay at both Nashville and Memphis; Senator James and former Gov. McCreary of Kentucky put in the claims of Louisville; Senator Russell and Representative Du Pre of Louisiana did not want that state left out of the next itinerary; Senator Smith and Representative Byrnes of South Carolina spoke for that state, and Representative Harrison talked for Mississippi. Stacks of letters and telegrams from the south reach the White House every day.

Representative Smith of Buffalo saw the President to invite him to speak before the chamber of commerce of that city on preparedness and extended an invitation for little Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to join in the various celebration of St. Patrick's day, on March 17.

Louisiana Wants Representative.

Senator Russell and Representative Du Pre asked the President to appoint ex-Senator Thornton of Louisiana as a member of the board of ordnance and fortifications of the War Department to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Senator Cockrell of Missouri.

Many members of the House and Senate expect to confer with the President on preparedness during the week. The President also expects to discuss revenue legislation, the shipping bill, the proposed tariff commission and the Philippines.

Vilna Is Fined 75,000 Marks.

LONDON, February 7.—A fine of 75,000 marks is said by Reuters Petrograd correspondent to have been levied on the people of the city of Vilna by the German authorities on the ground that the recent great fire there was of incendiary origin. The flames reached the headquarters of the general staff and the German army operating on the front between Vilna and Baranovich.

Swiss Munitions Plants Threatened.

PARIS, February 7.—A number of Swiss factories which have been supplying the entente allies with munitions have been threatened with destruction, says the Journal Du Jour. Notice of such intention has been given in letters.

Scotti Out of Danger.

NEW YORK, February 7.—Antonio Scotti, the opera singer, who has been critically ill with pneumonia at his hotel here, was stated by his physicians to be out of danger today. The doctors said Mr. Scotti passed the crisis of his illness last night.

KITCHENER LOSES CONTROL OF ARMY

Power Passes to Sir William Robertson, British Chief of Staff.

MAY QUIT THE CABINET FOR SOME OTHER WORK

Civilian With "Real Ability for Organization" Proposed as His Successor.



SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON. Takes over military direction of the British army.

LONDON, February 7, 4:30 a.m.—Changes of great importance in the direction of the war are contemplated, says the Daily Sketch. It asserts Earl Kitchener probably will leave the war office.

The Sketch also says Sir William Robertson, now chief of staff, probably will take over active direction of the war without interference, except from the cabinet as a whole, and that a civilian of real ability for organization will become secretary for war.

Other Work for Kitchener.

In event that Earl Kitchener leaves the war office, the Sketch adds, he will undertake work of an important character elsewhere.

Commenting on the order that the British chiefs of staff "shall be responsible for issuing the orders of the government regarding military operations," the Daily Mail says: "Since the creation of the ministry of munitions no more important change in the functions of the Secretary of War has taken place."

The order means that in future army orders will go out in the name of Sir William Robertson, the chief of staff, instead of that of Lord Kitchener, as heretofore.

RUMANIA WARNED COURSE IS HOSTILE

Relations With Central Powers Said to Be Near Breaking Point.

LONDON, February 7.—The tension between Rumania and the central powers appears to be approaching the breaking point, according to dispatches from Italy and Rumania appearing in today's morning newspapers.

The British government, however, has received definite information that the report to the effect that an ultimatum has been delivered by the central powers to Rumania is without foundation.

Adopt Threatening Attitude.

The Daily Chronicle's Marmont correspondent says Vienna and Berlin are adopting a threatening attitude toward Bucharest, and that there has been a sudden concentration of men and guns on the Bulgarian side of the Danube, while Rumanian troops are entrenched on the western frontier within fifty yards of the Austro-Hungarian lines.

It is also stated, the correspondent says, that the central powers have demanded "a neutrality favorable to the central powers" as well as the demobilization of the Rumanian army.

Denounced as "Hostile Acts."

MILAN, via London, February 7.—The Secolo's Rumanian correspondent reports a critical situation between Rumania and the central powers, saying:

"Vienna and the German government have formally notified the Rumanian government that they regard the eventual election of two Transylvanian irredentist parliamentary candidates at Galatz and Caracal, and the sale of over 80,000 carloads of grain to England as acts hostile to the central powers, which will take measures accordingly."

Justified by Rumania.

The Rumanian government, according to the correspondent, replied that the constitution does not permit the government to thwart the election of irredentist candidates.

Concerning the sales of grain, the Rumanian government answered that this was necessary to safeguard the economic interests of the country.

ALLEGES "FRAME-UP."

Nathan Kaplan, Sing Sing Convict, Acquitted of Immorality Charge.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., February 7.—Nathan Kaplan, first of the Sing Sing prison convicts to be tried as a result of the indictments growing out of former Warden Thomas Mott Osborne's administration, was acquitted by a jury in the supreme court here yesterday.

The jury deliberated on the case for more than five hours. Kaplan was charged with immorality.

TEUTONS MASSING ON GREEK BORDER

Division of Bulgars Also May Participate in Attack on Entente Allies.

FRENCH IN A SKIRMISH WITH BULGARIA PATROL

Austrians and Bulgars Reported to Be Fighting Italian-Serbian Force in Albania.

MILAN, via Paris, February 7.

—A dispatch from Athens to the Secolo says that French aviators reported continued concentration of adversary forces on the Greek frontier. German reinforcements are advancing from Uskub to the northwest of Gievveli, fresh German regiments have arrived at Monastir and Austrian forces are concentrating around Tchevikevo.

A Bulgarian division, says the dispatch finally, has left Kustendil, going southward, and the transfer of heavy artillery from Nish to the Bulgarian frontier is confirmed.

French and Bulgars Clash.

LONDON, February 7.—A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Saloniki says:

"There was a skirmish Sunday between French and Bulgarian mounted patrols on the Doiran front at Salient 227, about a kilometer south of the front line. It resulted in two of the French troops being wounded. The Bulgarian casualties are not known. This was the first clash since the entente allies' retirement to their new lines."

Fighting in Albania.

The Mail's Athens correspondent states that dispatches from an Austrian source report that the Austrians and Bulgarians have now joined forces in Albania and occupied Elbasan.

They attacked a mixed Italian-Serbian force and compelled it to retire on Fieri, twelve miles north of Avlona.

Greece May Ask Damages.

ATHENS, February 5, via Paris, February 7.—A Greek special commission has submitted a long report relative to the damages caused to the town of Saloniki by the recent attack of Zeppelin airships. A recommendation is made to the Greek premier that a demand be made on Germany for indemnity.

CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

Nominations of M. O. Chance and Otto Praeger Approved.

The nomination of Merritt O. Chance as postmaster of Washington, D. C., was confirmed by the Senate today.

The Senate also confirmed the nomination of Otto Praeger as second assistant postmaster general. Before his appointment as second assistant postmaster general, Praeger was postmaster of Washington.

Both officials have been serving under a recess appointment. The appointment of Mr. Chance, which was sent to the Senate almost immediately after the opening of the present session of Congress, was held up because of charges that he was a democrat. Senators who looked into the matter, however, came to the conclusion that his democracy could not be questioned seriously enough to warrant the rejection of his name.

VON PAFEN PAPERS FROM BANK.

May Aid Grand Jury Investigation of Alleged Pro-German Plots.

Records showing some of the financial transactions of Capt. Franz von Papen, the military attaché of the German embassy who has been recalled, which may aid the grand jury investigation of the alleged pro-German plots, have been obtained by the Department of Justice from the Riggs National Bank.

These papers have been sent to the United States district attorney, H. Snowden Marshall, at New York. It is admitted that these papers are of no use so far as dealings with von Papen personally are concerned, but they may help to clear up the question of attempt to violate United States neutrality.

The subpoena for these papers was served on the bank officials more than a week ago, when Capt. von Papen reached England.

BLIZZARD SWEEPS CLEVELAND.

Man Perishes in Effort to Reach Office in a Forty-Mile Gale.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, February 7.—A gale blowing forty miles an hour, carrying clouds of snow with it and bringing a temperature close to zero, delayed trolley and other traffic here today and resulted in the death of A. M. Leach, who collapsed after battling his way against the storm trying to reach his office.

Several persons were injured, and one or two small fires were caused. Further predictions forecasted zero tonight.

Asks Help in Code Book Case.

The Navy Department today asked the Department of Justice to help discover how the battle code book was lost from the destroyer Hull of the Pacific fleet.

H. F. Moore's Nomination Confirmed.

The Senate today confirmed the nomination of H. Frank Moore as deputy commissioner of fisheries.

GERMANY DIRECTS FUTURE REPRISALS ONLY AGAINST FOE

Offers New Phrase in Lusitania Note to Replace One Containing Word "Illegal."

HOPES U. S. WILL AID IN FREEING THE SEAS

Kaiser's Government Calls Britain's Blockade of Germany an Inhumane Act.

CONFERENCE FOR TODAY

Secretary Lansing to Talk With President Wilson at White House This Afternoon on Matter.

Germany has agreed that reprisals must not be directed against any other than enemy subjects. This expression is offered by Germany to take the place of the phrase containing the word illegal which was incorporated in the draft of the Lusitania agreement now under consideration.

It also became known that Germany expresses the hope that it may have the opportunity to co-operate with the United States in some action looking toward the freedom of the seas before the end of the war. This statement is taken in high diplomatic circles to imply that the Berlin government sees no occasion to await the cessation of hostilities before settling that issue.

British Blockade Called Inhumane.

Furthermore, the German government refers to the British blockade of Germany as being inhumane and calls attention to the fact that neutral vessels have been affected by the efforts of the British government to starve Germany, and puts forth the contention that the German retaliation in the war zone around the British Isles is justified by the action of Great Britain. Claims that the reprisals are legal are not made.

As has been previously stated, Germany says in the communication that the British blockade of the United States was without intent and that the method of conducting naval warfare has been changed out of regard for the long-standing friendship between the United States and Germany and because American lives were lost.

No New Demands Made

on Germany in Lusitania Case, Mr. Lansing Says

Secretary Lansing today flatly denied that new demands had been made in the Lusitania case at a time when the German government considered the negotiations practically were at an end. He was speaking of the Berlin dispatches quoting the references by Dr. Zimmerman, German under secretary of foreign affairs, to "new demands."

"This government," said Secretary Lansing, "has not increased the demands made in the Lusitania case as set forth in the notes of May 13, June 9 and July 21. I doubt if Dr. Zimmerman ever made the statement that new demands had been injected, because he must know that it is utterly false."

Declines to Go Into Details.

Secretary Lansing would not go into details or discuss Dr. Zimmerman's statement further. When Dr. Zimmerman's statement was published in this country, however, his reference to new demands was taken to apply to a possible construction on the word "illegal" in the proposed form of settlement. The only ground American officials could find for construing that as embodying a new demand was the possibility that it might be considered applicable not alone to the destruction of neutrals on the Lusitania but also to the method by which she was sunk.

Secretary Lansing repeated that he expected to confer with President Wilson some time during the day for publication within the hour. It was said that the President had other engagements.

Calls Situation Unchanged.

Secretary Lansing made it known, however, that the situation considered by the State Department, Chairman Stone of the Senate foreign relations committee said after talking with administration officials that his impression was the Lusitania case was "practically settled." He did not go into details. Secretary Lansing, however, indicated that some announcement might be given for publication within the hour.

There was no indication whether the President had definitely decided whether Germany's latest proposal was satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Administration officials let it be known that the German proposal would not be permitted to stand in the way of success of the negotiations.

The State Department will not insist that the German proposal will not